

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (month / year): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

84-0-3-0

Hanover

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HNS.264

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 387 West Washington Street

Historic Name: Jesse and Celia Beal House

Uses: Present: Two-Family Residential

Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: White's History, Plan 2 No.47

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Two-car, wood shingled garage to south of house along roadway

Major Alterations (with dates): One-story addition to north façade, shed dormer, two one-and-a-half story additions to the southeast corner of house, and vinyl replacement windows

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .96 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half structure house sits sideways on its lot and has a Z-shaped footprint. The original house sits with the gable-end of its asphalt shingled gable roof to the street and has a long, nearly flat roofed addition to its north façade and a taller, cross-gable roofed addition that stretches across its east façade to what appears to have been a former gable-end barn which is now incorporated into the house. The entire structure is sided in wood clapboards with flat wood trim and corner boards. The gable facades have narrow eaves across the top of the façade while the gable-end facades have a wider overhang with wood molding along the eaves over enclosed soffits. Wide, box-style wood returns are located at the corners of each pediment. The windows are primarily six-over-six vinyl replacement windows set into wood frames that have wood molding at the top and sides over narrow projecting sills. A square corbeled brick chimney extends from the roof ridge to the right of its center. A second, fieldstone chimney is visible on the east slope of the connecting addition.

The original house is located in the northwest corner of the structure. Although there is no longer an entrance into this building, it appears to have been situated so that the original front door faced south rather than west towards the street. The west gable-end has a narrow double hung window in its pediment with a much wider eight-over-eight window at the center of the first floor. On its north façade, a long shed dormer extends from the west corner of the house to the east end of the connecting addition. The dormer is trimmed to match the rest of the house but has wider, projecting eaves and extends down to be flush with the north façade below. Four double hung windows line the shed dormer. One window is located in the northwest corner of the first floor, well to the right of the long, shallow, shed roof of the one-story addition on the north façade. This is clearly a much later addition, with a wide wood board along the eaves that projects out far beyond the north façade of the addition. One large picture window is located on the west façade of the addition and three are located on its north façade.

On the south façade of the original house, three double hung windows are located across the façade. A fourth window in the southeast corner of the façade is set in from the rest and may have been part of a later addition. The cross gable roof of the connector is nearly as tall as the gable roof of the Cape style house but projects down below the eaves of the original house over an open entry porch in the corner of the structure. The porch has shallow arches at the top of each of its three openings with square posts and a set of fan style brackets at the top of the posts surrounding the entrance. The entrance has curving stone paver stairs leading to the southwest corner of the porch. Thin railings with narrow turned balusters are located on either side of the stairs. The porch has a door in both its north and west sides, each of which is covered by a metal storm door, and a large double hung window in between. The porch extends out in front of the barn to the south and the addition covers over the northwest corner of its pediment. The siding on the barn comes down close to the ground, which slopes down to the south. Two large double hung windows are located on the barn's second floor, while on the first floor, a set of three divided light casement windows is located at the center of the façade with a double hung window to either side.

At the front of the property to the south of the original house is a two-car, gable-end roofed garage. The garage faces north and has two wood paneled overhead doors and wood shingle siding with wood trimmed eaves that project out over all sides of the building. A wide dirt and gravel parking area and driveway runs along the road

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from the garage to the house. A low concrete block retaining wall surrounds the west and south façade creating a small planting area with low bushes along the house up to the open porch. More plantings are located behind similar blocks along the west façade of the barn. A low fieldstone wall runs along the road to the north and south of the parking area. A grass lawn is located to the north of the house in front of a long, low wood deck and patio area extending from the northeast corner of the building. Mature trees surround the property on all sides.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

White was not able to confirm the date of the house in his *History of Hanson* but believed that it was built prior to 1800. The first confirmed view of the house is on the 1830 Smith Plan of Hanson which shows the house as belonging to J. Beal (also spelled Beals and Beales). This appears to have been Jesse Beal (1775-1843), son of David Beals and Alice Phillips Beal, also of Hanson, then Pembroke. Jesse married Celia Curtis (1775-1848) in Scituate in 1803 and is listed as a resident of Hanson in the 1820-1840 U.S. Censuses. According to White's History, a Jason Ellis was living in the house in 1844 and may have purchased it from Celia Beal after Jesse's death. Jason Ellis (1815-1882) was born in Bridgewater to Oren and Eliza Ellis and is listed as a shoemaker in the 1840 and 1850 U.S. Censuses for Hanson. The 1850 U.S. Census also indicates that his wife was Sarah¹ and that his eldest child, Charles Henry, was born c. 1838, suggesting a marriage about 1837. Ellis and his family were in Hanson from at least 1840 through 1855, moving to Abington by 1859. From Abington, Jason enlisted in 1862 in Company C, Massachusetts 38th Infantry Regiment. He was mustered out on 30 Jun 1865 and went to join his family, by then living in Boston. Sarah died in Boston in 1873, and by 1880 Jason was in the Danvers State Hospital, where he died in 1882.²

Between 1850 and 1860, the Ellis family moved to Abington and Lucius Tisdale Fuller (1822-1893) moved into the house. The

The 1856 Walling Map of Hanson shows the house as belonging to "L.T. Fuller," who was the son of Patience and Barzillai Fuller and married Eliza Pratt in 1851. He and Eliza presumably moved to the West Washington Street, then Willow Street, home after their marriage where Lucius worked as a shoemaker and farm laborer. After Eliza's death in 1862, Lucius married Mehitable P. Brown Drake (1836-1930), the widow of Union soldier Thomas Drake and daughter of David and Mehitable Brown of East Bridgewater. Lucius and his family lived in Hanson from at least 1850s through 1880s, and the 1879 Walker Atlas lists him as living there as well.

Although White suggests that Lucius only purchased the property for his son, Hiram Fuller, there is no doubt that Lucius was already living in the house before Hiram was born in 1858. However, Hiram does appear to have inherited the property from Lucius after his death. Hiram (1858-1914) was also a shoemaker and was married twice - first to Emma F. Gerrish in Abington in 1880 and later to Annie Sophia (Churchill) Bradford in 1907. In 1893, Hiram and Emma sold the house to Joseph White, father of White's History writer Joseph B. White, who lived to the west of the property and had gradually amassed a large number of properties during the late nineteenth century.³ By the 1879 Walker Atlas, Joseph White already owned all of the land to the west of West Washington Street, and by the early 1900s owned the land to the south of the Fuller homestead as well. White does not appear to have ever lived in the house however and may have rented it out as the 1903 Richards Atlas shows Mrs. N. Fuller as living in the home. This was presumably meant to refer to Mrs. Mehitable Fuller, however, who was Lucius's widow and Hiram's mother, as the 1910 U.S. Census lists her as living in her own home on Washington Street, and Hiram Fuller had moved to Whitman sometime before 1900.

After Joseph White's death in 1902, his wife, Sarah E. White, sold the house to Cynthia A. Allen and Joseph Willis of Whitman.⁴ Cynthia and Joseph married in 1910 while Joseph was working as a cutter in the shoe factory. In 1911, they sold the house to Flora Turner Lincoln and appear to have moved back to Whitman. Flora and her husband, Levi Lincoln, were also from Whitman and while they remained in Hanson, where Levi worked as an

¹ Sarah's 1873 Boston death record indicates that her father's name was "Bolsworth" or possibly "Bosworth" and that she was born in Maine. No record of a birth or marriage has so far been located.

² 1880 United States Federal Census; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/175954035/jason-ellis>

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 648, Page 150

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 944, Page 48

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electrical supply shipper, for the rest of their lives, they only lived on West Washington Street for two years before selling the house in 1913 to Frederick Craig.⁵ Frederick Craig (1874 -1949) was married to Ida Frances Stewart and worked as an edge setter at the shoe factory according to the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Censuses. After his death in 1949, the house passed to Irvin D. and Olgie Reade, who sold it again in 1953 to Thurl W. and Barbara (Spear) Tolman of Quincy.⁶ The Tolmans owned the property until 1971, when they sold it to Mary and William Mowray.⁷ Five years later, the Mowrays sold the house to Joseph and Georgeann Cote, who remained there until 1994, when they sold the house to current owners John and Yvonne Murray.⁸

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⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1168, Page 282

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2075, Page 292

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3686, Page 540

⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 12569 Page 282

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